

**HSC'S – PROGRESS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY:
HSC'S ROLE IN THE MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
RADM NORTH'S OPENING REMARKS
MARCH 6, 2000**

**THANK YOU KARL (KEININGER). GOOD MORNING
CONGRESSMAN OBERSTAR, DEPUTY SECRETARY
DOWNEY, ADMIRAL LOY, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
GRAYKOWSKI, ADMIRAL MITROPOLOUS, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THIS 2ND HSC
CONFERENCE. A GREAT VENUE – WE'RE REALLY IN
THE MIDDLE OF MTS – A GREAT AGENDA.**

**I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY TO OPEN THIS
IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT CONFERENCE AND TO
INTRODUCE OUR DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE SPEAKER
AND FIRST PANEL. FIRST, HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO
EXTEND MY APPRECIATION TO OUR HOSTS, THE
MARITIME ASSOCIATION – PORT OF NEW YORK & NEW
JERSEY AND ITS DIRECTOR NICK CRETAN, AND
PRESIDENT, MR. STAN ERICKSON. THANK YOU.**

ALSO THANKS TO CAPT ANDY MCGOVERN OF THE HARBOR SAFETY NAVIGATION & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY, BILL GRAY OF INTERTANKO, JUDY ROVINS OUR CONFERENCE PLANNER AND HER ASSOCIATES, AND MR. JEFF HIGH - MY WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN ORGANIZING THIS EVENT AND I THANK ALL OF YOU, THE PARTICIPANTS – PANELISTS AND AUDIENCE FOR BEING HERE.

BEFORE I INTRODUCE OUR SPEAKERS I WOULD LIKE TO SET THE STAGE FOR THIS YEAR’S CONFERENCE BY REVISITING THE FOUR CHALLENGES WE WERE LEFT WITH LAST YEAR AND BY EXPLAINING THE GENERAL FOCUS FOR THIS YEAR’S EVENT

CHALLENGE:

FIRST, TO ESTABLISH A LEVEL OF CONSISTENCY AMONG HSCs NECESSARY TO TAKE A SYSTEMS APPROACH TO THE MTS. WE HAVE DEVELOPED GUIDANCE TO HELP ADDRESS THIS CHALLENGE THAT WE WILL PREVIEW LATER THIS MORNING.

WE WILL PRESENT THIS GUIDANCE IN DRAFT FORM SO THAT TODAY AND TOMORROW WE CAN HAVE THE BENEFIT OF YOUR INSIGHT AND COMMENTS TO ENSURE THE PRODUCT YOU RECEIVE IS BENEFICIAL TO THE CONTINUED OPERATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF HSCs NATIONWIDE.

SECOND, TO CREATE AN OPTIMAL MEANS OF EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HSCs AND MTS USERS AS WELL AS WITH THE NATIONAL LEVEL STAKEHOLDERS. JEFF HIGH WILL EXPLAIN HOW THE MTS NATIONAL COORDINATING STRUCTURE WORKS AND WHERE HSCs FIT IN. WE WILL ALSO SHOWCASE OUR HSC WEBSITE AND INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE.

THE WEBSITE IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL AND ONLINE DUE TO THE HARD WORK AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY AND THE HSCs HERE IN NY/NJ AND IN LA/LB. THIS SITE IS, HOWEVER, A PROTOTYPE BECAUSE AGAIN, I FEEL IT IS VITAL TO ALLOW SOME FINE TUNING OF THIS TOOL SO THE HSCs CAN DERIVE THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT. WE'LL DO THAT HERE.

**THIRD, FIND A WAY TO EXPORT YOUR SUCCESS STORIES
AND LESSONS LEARNED TO OTHER HSCs AND TO AREAS
WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF AN HSC. AGAIN, THE
WEBSITE IS A PERFECT VEHICLE FOR THIS, AS IS THIS
FOLLOW-ON CONFERENCE; AND**

**FOURTH, TO LET THE COLLECTIVE FEDERAL AGENCIES OF
THE MTS INITIATIVE KNOW HOW THEY CAN HELP.
IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS, THROUGH THE
WEBSITE AND A SUITE OF RISK ASSESSMENT AND
MANAGEMENT TOOLS TO BE PRESENTED HERE TODAY
WILL ANSWER THAT CHALLENGE IN PAPER. I HOPE
THAT YOU WILL USE THIS CONFERENCE AND ALL THE
COMMUNICATION AVENUES THAT ARE BEING MADE
AVAILABLE TO CONTINUE TO HELP US KNOW HOW
BEST TO ASSIST YOUR LOCAL COORDINATION
EFFORTS.**

AS I JUST INDICATED, OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS WE WILL PRESENT SOME OF THE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON TO ANSWER LAST YEAR'S CHALLENGES. WE USED INPUT FROM LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE, FROM THE MTS OUTREACH EFFORTS, AND FROM STAKEHOLDERS GATHERED FROM STUDIES AND SURVEYS TO PUT TOGETHER SOME TOOLS TO AID THE HSCs IN OPERATING MORE EFFICIENTLY. THEY WILL ALSO HELP YOUR ORGANIZATIONS PLUG INTO THE NATIONAL MTS INITIATIVE.

MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE LAST CONFERENCE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE MTS TASK FORCE, WHICH YOU HEARD ABOUT LAST YEAR, COMPLETED ITS REPORT TO CONGRESS. THE REPORT INCLUDED RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ADDRESS *COORDINATION, FUNDING, COMPETITIVENESS & MOBILITY, IMPROVING AWARENESS OF THE MTS, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE, SECURITY AND SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION*. WE WILL DISCUSS HOW THESE RECOMMENDATIONS FIT INTO AND AFFECT THE ROLE OF THE HSCs AS THE LOCAL COORDINATING BODIES IN THE NATIONAL MTS COORDINATING STRUCTURE ENVISIONED IN THE MTS REPORT.

THIS MORNING, OUR KEY NOTE SPEAKER – DEPUTY SECRETARY DOWNEY – ALONG WITH OPENING REMARKS BY ADMIRAL LOY AND MARAD DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR GRAYKOWSKI WILL FORM A PANEL TO TAKE Q’S AND A’S WHEN THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR COMMENTS. IT’S NOW MY PRIVILEGE AND PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER. DEPUTY SECRETARY DOWNEY AND SECRETARY SLATER ARE STAUNCH ADVOCATES AND SUPPORTERS OF THE MTS INITIATIVE AND FOR OUR WORK WITH HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEES AND THE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS.

THEY HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS AND ENORMOUSLY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR EFFORTS. MTS HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A DOT FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE AND REPRESENTS THE BEST OF THE CONCEPT OF “ONE DOT” – ALL MODES PULLING TOGETHER.

**WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME THIS FAR BECAUSE OF THEIR
UNDIMINISHED SUPPORT AND ENTHUSIASM BEGINNING
MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO WHEN THE MTS
INITIATIVE WAS OFFICIALLY ROLLED OUT. AND NOW
WE LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT
AS WE ENTER PERHAPS THE MOST DIFFICULT STAGE
OF THIS INITIATIVE – ROLLING UP OUR SLEEVES AND
GETTING DOWN TO THE BUSINESS OF IMPLEMENTING
THE MTS REPORT’S RECOMMENDATIONS.**

**DEPUTY SECRETARY MORTIMER DOWNEY HAS GREAT
DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE IN TRANSPORTATION
MANAGEMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT AND
EXECUTION OF PUBLIC POLICY AT BOTH THE
NATIONAL LEVEL IN DOT AND LOCAL LEVEL HAVING
SERVED WITH THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY/NJ AS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
OF THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY. WE COULDN’T HAVE A MORE
ENTHUSIASTIC ADVOCATE OF THE MTS OR WHAT
WE’RE ABOUT THESE TWO DAYS.**

**PLEASE WELCOME DEPUTY SECRETARY MORTIMER
DOWNEY.**